

IN HONOR OF CLEVELAND POLICE
COMMANDER MARVIN CROSS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Commander Marvin Cross, upon the occasion of his retirement from the Cleveland Police Department—Following twenty-two years of dedication to the citizens of Cleveland; and twenty-two years of honor to the force and to the badge.

Commander Cross was born and raised in Cleveland, and graduated from Max Hayes High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Myers University, and later graduated from the FBI Academy. In 1981, Commander Cross joined the city of Cleveland Police Department. By 1983, Commander Cross was promoted to the position of Detective, and within ten years, he was appointed to the position of Sergeant in the 6th District. His extensive experience regarding hate crimes, combined with his passion for social justice, led Commander Cross to create the city of Cleveland's Ethnic Intimidation/Hate Crime Task Force. This Task Force has resulted in a 62 percent reduction of hate crime activities since 1998.

Commander Cross' great intellect, combined with his exceptional interpersonal skills, brought people and agencies together for the common good and protection of Cleveland citizens. He developed a Fugitive Tracking System that led to the apprehension of over 2,500 fugitives; and reduced fugitive tracking expenses by more than forty percent.

The list of Commander Cross' accomplishments and accolades is long and far-reaching. He was twice-named Police Officer of the Year; was honored with the Distinguished Service Award from the city of Cleveland Police Department; and was bestowed the Red Cross Biennial Volunteer Hero Award, among others.

These extraordinary honors reflect the extraordinary nature of Commander Cross himself. His integrity, vision, heart, and concern for others has served to uplift the lives of countless families and individuals within our community. Commander Cross in the ultimate hero and role model for our youth. His sincere concern for our children has been witnessed through his involvement in the Amateur Athletic Youth Basketball League, the Special Olympics Torch Run and the Greater Cleveland Big Brothers/Big Sisters Shadow Blue Program.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor, gratitude and celebration of Commander Marvin Cross, as we reflect on his twenty-two years of significant service to the citizens of Cleveland. Commander Cross' positive nature, personal integrity, expertise, and focus on protecting his constituents in the city of Cleveland have all served to raise the grade of safety and protection within the City limits to an exceptional level. Commander Cross' outstanding years of service has been a guiding force within our community, and is worthy of our gratitude and recognition. We wish Commander Cross and his entire family many blessings, great happiness and abundant health today and always.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VERNON J. EHLERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 626 and 627 I was absent because I was giving a major lecture on science and engineering to the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on both issues.

ON THE DEATH OF JAMES A. GRAHAM, FORMER NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

HON. RICHARD BURR

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina lost a great friend today. For 36 years, the Old North State's agricultural interests were overseen with care, love, and passion by Jim Graham. For 36 years, Jim Graham served as Commissioner of Agriculture for my State, and he was probably the most beloved figure in public life in 20th century North Carolina.

Anyone who met the Commissioner—whether they met him once, or knew him for all of his 82 years—knew the same Jim Graham. He was affable, kind, and passionate. Mr. Graham grew up in Rowan county, was educated at State College (now North Carolina State University), and held several agriculture-related jobs before he entered public service, including managing the Dixie Classic fair in my home town of Winston-Salem. He was appointed Commissioner of Agriculture in the summer of 1964, was elected to the position that fall, and held it until his retirement in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner was a passionate member of the other political party. So passionate, in fact, that when introduced at political rallies, he would let out the loudest donkey bray you have ever heard. But while he brayed loudly for his party, he never spoke louder, or with more passion, than he did when preaching for the betterment of the North Carolina farmer. He always held the land, and the people who worked the land, in the highest esteem.

With all the changes that have occurred in North Carolina agriculture in the last 30 years, it is a good thing that we had Jim Graham looking out for us. When he was looking out, he was looking forward. He took the Tar Heel State from near-total dependence on the golden leaf of tobacco, to today, when tobacco income is complemented by hogs, poultry, winegrapes, soybeans, sweet potatoes, and more.

He was a positive voice for the future of North Carolina, and just as he would never forget your name, not soon will many forget his ever-present cigar and cowboy hat, his kind manner and love for his state.

No farmer anywhere had a better friend than Jim Graham. No State in the Union had a better public servant than Jim Graham. Well done, good and faithful servant.

HONORING SAMUEL HUNTINGTON
AND BILL STANLEY

HON. ROB SIMMONS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize two individuals who are genuine Connecticut treasures—Samuel Huntington and Bill Stanley.

On Monday I will attend a ceremony to reinter Samuel Huntington. Mr. Huntington will be laid to rest in Norwich, Connecticut, a community in the Second District, which I am proud to represent.

Samuel Huntington was born in Windham, Connecticut on July 2, 1732. He did not have the benefit of a formal public education as he was the eldest son and his father needed him to help work the family farm. Possessing a fine mind, when he was finished with his farm chores he devoted himself to reading. Mr. Huntington enjoyed studying the law and when he turned 22 he left the farm to pursue his interest. Unable to afford a formal legal education, he studied on his own. The library of an attorney in a neighboring town provided him with access to the necessary books—his own determination accomplished the rest.

He did well. In 1774, he became an associate judge in the superior court. Mr. Huntington was among those who early on spoke against British tyranny. In October 1775, his wisdom and patriotism earned him an appointment by the Connecticut General Assembly to represent the colony in the Continental Congress.

In the July 1776 Mr. Huntington joined his colleagues in voting for the Declaration of Independence. In 1779, Mr. Huntington served as president of the Congress. As such, some say he was the first President of the United States. He remained a member of that honorable body until 1781, when ill health forced him to retire. Samuel Huntington died on January 5, 1796.

Recently the Norwich Historical Society embarked on a campaign to renovate the tomb of Mr. Huntington and his wife. Over time the tomb had decayed and was in danger of collapse. Our Founding Fathers deserve more, and the leaders of Norwich have responded.

The second individual I recognize is President of the Norwich Historical Society, William Stanley. He is also one of Connecticut's treasures. Bill organized the effort to renovate the tomb and I was very pleased when he called me for support. Bill is a good man and a good friend.

For five decades Bill Stanley has dedicated himself to public service. His resume shows an individual who has a profound devotion to his community and has worked to make it a better place in which to live, work and raise a family.

In 1963, Bill was chairman of the Norwich Flood Rehabilitation Drive and from 1966 to 1970 he was a state senator, representing the 19th District. Over the decades he has served as chairman of the Eastern Connecticut District of the American Cancer Society; led Eastern Connecticut Recruitment for the Boy Scouts of America; been treasurer of the Norwich Industrial Park Association; served as director of the William W. Backus Hospital, and has been vice chairman of the Southeastern Connecticut Water Authority.